

**2009-07-01 - Good Bugs Released on Knapweed**

On July 1, 2009 Larry Skillestad and his co worker Moose, released *Larinus minutus* in three different areas in Palisades.

Insect Pest Management (IPM) is new this year for Palisades. These small bugs were released in areas of pretty heavy knapweed infestation.

The bugs are harvested and stored in comfortable containers until released on a plant.

They will attack the flower and prevent its production of seeds.



Unlike the *Mecinus* released for the Dalmatian Toadflax, the plant will not die but it will not be able to produce any of its usual 35,000 to 40,000 seeds per flower.

As you travel through Palisades, stop and carefully look for these small good bugs.

Larry also found three different good bugs attacking Skeleton

Weed, another noxious plant, found in Palisades.

The attackers seem to completely change the look of the plant. You can harvest a plant that has good bugs on it by cutting off the stem about 4" above the ground, place it in a plastic bag and take it to another infestation and lean the cut plant against a growing Skeleton Weed.

